



Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) Inc.

Annual Report 2015 – 2016



It gives me great pleasure to report on the activities of Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) Inc. (PWW(NZ)) over the last year. PWW(NZ) has continued its well established programme of action to advance the status of women and girls in New Zealand and further developed links to support work with women and girls in the wider Pacific Region

ECOSOC Special Consultative Status

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) special consultative status requires us to support and enhance the work of the United Nations. In March 2016 PWW(NZ) registered a group 11 delegates, ably led by Beverley Turner, to the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York. Under our ECOSOC special status PWW(NZ) is able to register up to 20 delegates to CSW. We are delighted to be in a position to enable women from all over NZ to participate in CSW. Our thanks to Beverley Turner for, once again, organising the registrations for the attendees.

A CSW60 reporting back evening was held in April when a very enthusiastic group of participants shared their experiences and learning with women in Auckland.

ECOSOC status also requires that we have a wider Pacific focus. This year we connected with a group of NZ Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) volunteers in Vanuatu. Fiona Morris on assignment with the UN Women's Women in Markets project identified a need for chairs to support the development of the Women's Management committee. A theatre fundraising evening raised sufficient fund to purchase 20 chairs for Silae Vanua.

PWW(NZ) is linked regionally to the Asia-Pacific Women's Watch (APWW) with Beverley Turner as our representative on the Steering Committee.

2016 is the year in which the NZ Government must report to the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) committee. PWW(NZ) will be submitting an alternative report. To inform this report workshops and meetings have been held and an online questionnaire was available throughout May. This year has seen the inclusion of Trans women in CEDAW workshops. Workshops have also been held with disabled women. These with the input from the 2015 conference workshops are the basis of our report.

Conference

The PWW(NZ) 10th one day Conference was held in September on Suffrage day. The title was *"Wahine Toa. The Future for Gen Z Women. Dreams, Desires and Decisions for younger women in Aotearoa New Zealand"*

Our speakers were Soana Pamaka, Prue Kapua, Louisa Wall and Huhana Hickey ably supported by very engaging and enthusiastic panel of 10 young women from Auckland Secondary Schools. Despite coming from very diverse backgrounds the young women found that the issues they faced were remarkably similar.

Other Activities

PWW(NZ) is part of the International Caucus at the Ministry for Women. The International Caucus meets two or three times year to discuss and provide feedback to the Ministry for Women on NZ and international issues concerning women. The group receives updates from the Ministry for Women and also Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It is an important link for those attending CSW In New York and other international meetings.

In November 2015 after lobbying Auckland Council we were invited to present to the Council Governing Body a proposal for Auckland to join the Cities for CEDAW movement. We were well received and there was a definite desire to adopt the principles. Subsequently we met with council officials to further the process. Unfortunately, it would appear that election mode is slowing action. However, it is an issue we can raise with electoral candidates in the coming months.

In May 2016 PWW(NZ), under the guidance of Jane Prichard held a very successful Writing Workshop. 28 participants heard from Jane and had an opportunity to practice crafting a submission/report for submission to high level governmental or UN organisations.

We continue our support of the Living Wage campaign as we also continue to promote gender equity in pay and employment.

We are honoured to have as our Patrons Dr Marilyn Waring and Prue Kapua. Thank you both for your support and thanks to Prue for her participation in our conference last year.

The Board

There has been quite a lot of change on the board over the year:

Sara Daneshvar returned from her overseas break and re-joined the board late last year. At the same time Sara Chin left to travel. We welcome Sara Daneshvar back and wish Sara Chin well.

Louise Carr-Neil took on the role of Treasurer in August but unfortunately a new job out of Auckland meant we lost her expertise at the beginning of this year. We wish Louise well in her new role in Hamilton. We have been without a treasurer for the last part of the year so are pleased that Leu Pupulu has agreed to undertake the work.

Last month we said farewell to Rosie Paterson. Rosie has completed her MA and is now off to live in Brazil where she will be married later this year. We thank Rosie for her input and wish her well in the next stage of her exciting life.

Congratulations to Maggie Behrend on the birth of her son Leo. Maggie has taken time out of board duties - we look forward to her return this year.

Rhonda Cummins has joined the board as an alternate for Lorri Mackness – we welcome Rhonda to the team.

Beverley Turner does an amazing job organising the registration for CSW and also keeping us all up to date and in touch with activities both local and overseas. For this reason, we have created a new role of “International Secretary” a role which fits Beverley and her expertise extremely well.

The board wishes to acknowledge support from Community Organisation Grants (COGS) funding which enables us to keep costs and fees for activities low and reach a wide range of people.

In closing I wish to thank all the board members for their commitment and hard work through the year. For your support and enthusiasm for the work Thank You — we couldn't do what we do without you all.

Christine King
Convenor